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Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, a Senator from the State of Delaware.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Spirit, we are overwhelmed by Your majesty and grateful for Your indescribable love. But we are also overwhelmed by our inadequacies, our failures, and our sins. Lord, forgive us for the misusing of the talents and abilities You have given us. Help us to cut through our preoccupation with ourselves and become more fully involved in fulfilling Your purposes.

Today, set the hearts of our Senators upon new paths as they acknowledge that no true peace is possible outside of Your will. Guide them to produce creative legislation that will fulfill Your will on Earth.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable CHRISTOPHER A. COONS led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 25, 2012.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable CHRISTOPHER A.

COONS, a Senator from the State of Delaware, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. COONS thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we are now considering the motion to proceed to the flood insurance bill postcloture. We will begin consideration of that bill today. At 5:30, there will be a cloture vote on the motion to concur in the House message with respect to S. 3187, which is the Food and Drug Administration bill. This is an extremely important bill. Work has been completed on that. We should be OK tonight and have that as something we look to as having accomplished this week.

We also need to complete work on student loans, flood insurance, and transportation this week. We have lots to do and a very short time to do it.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today the Supreme Court correctly struck down the vast majority of the mean-spirited Arizona law; that is, of course, the immigration law. While I agree with the Court's decision to invalidate three troubling provisions of Arizona's flawed law, there are actually four provisions. Three were declared unconstitutional, one was upheld.

I am concerned about the section they upheld. I am surprised they did, but they did. The Justices upheld a measure that allows police to conduct immigration checks on anyone they suspect of being in the country ille-

gally, even if their only evidence is an accent or maybe the color of their skin.

Allowing Arizona to keep its "papers please" system of immigration checks invites racial profiling. It gives Arizona officials free rein to detain anyone they suspect of being in Arizona without documentation.

As long as this provision remains, innocent American citizens are in danger of being detained by police unless they carry immigration papers with them at all times. However, it is reassuring that the Court left the door open to further court challenges of this unsound provision. I say to the Presiding Officer and to anyone within the sound of my voice, someone with my skin color or yours, I do not think we are going to be carrying our immigration papers with us everywhere we go.

But if someone is in Arizona and speaks with a little bit of an accent or their skin color is brown, they better have their papers with them. That is unfortunate. It is reassuring that the Court, though, left the door open to further court challenges of this very unsound provision. I am optimistic that once that portion of the law is implemented, it will be discarded.

Laws that legalize discrimination are not compatible with laws and traditions of equal rights. So it is disturbing that Mitt Romney has called the unconstitutional Arizona law a model for immigration reform. Anyone who thinks such an unconstitutional law should serve as a model for national reform is clearly outside the mainstream.

The U.S. Supreme Court agreed with that today. Today's partial victory affirms the Obama administration was right to challenge this awful law, and it is a reminder that the ultimate responsibility for fixing our Nation's broken immigration system rests with Congress.

Instead of allowing 50 States to have 50 different enforcement mechanisms,

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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